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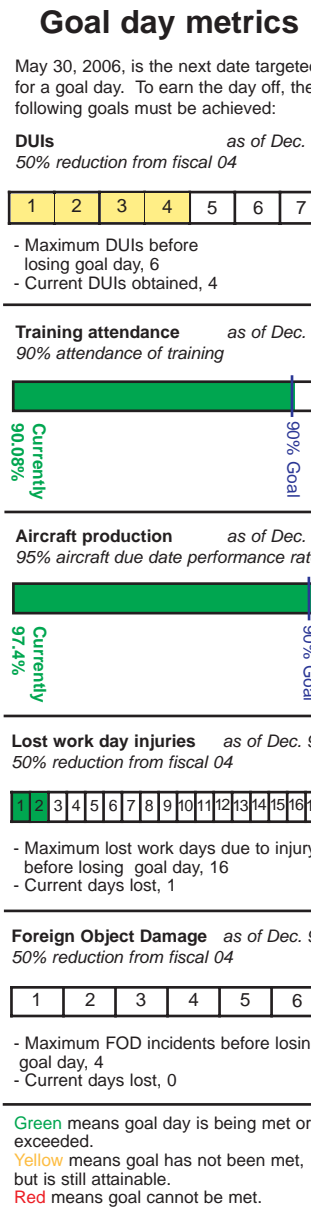
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THE MACH READ

Volunteers needed
The Air Force is looking for volunteers to fill one-year extended deployments. Personnel from almost every career field are needed to fill these war-time positions. If the Air Force does not receive enough volunteers, Air Force Personnel Center will identify the most eligible non-volunteers. Personnel have the option to request a follow-on assignment or elect to remain at their home station upon return from the extended TDY, manning permitting. To volunteer for one of the enlisted positions log onto Assignment Management System through the AFPC homepage at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil and select AMS Login. Officers should contact their AFPC Assignment Team. More information is available on the AFPC website at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afas/extendedtdys/extendedtdy.htm. Those interested may also contact the AFPC POC at DSN 665-4273.

Food drive extended
The annual holiday food drive has been extended to Dec. 19. Collection boxes are located at services facilities and the commissary. All canned food and non-perishable items will be accepted. Organizations that would like a collection box or has a donation to be picked up is asked to contact the community center. Applications for families that would benefit from receiving a holiday food basket are being accepted now. Names may be turned in by supervisors, commanders, first shirts, and co-workers. Contact the Smith Community Center at 926-2105 for more information or to receive a confidential application.



Fun for less



Senior Airman April Gipson shows her military ID to Martha Newton at the Pizza Depot to get a discount on her meal.

GO Program gets junior enlisted Airmen out and about

By HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Robins has a program that keeps junior enlisted Airmen on the go. The GO program, an Air Force Materiel Command effort which began in early 2005, provides E-1 through E-4 Airmen with a greater opportunity to get involved in their military community from December through February. Marisa Mammano, 78th Mission Support Groups Marketing Division commercial sponsorship and advertising coordinator, said the program gives Airmen a reason to get out and have fun with friends. "We're trying to prevent people from getting lonely during the holidays," she said. "When the they're not around their families for the holidays, we want to pro-

WHAT TO KNOW

The GO program gives Airmen in the ranks of airman basic through senior airman a chance to experience Services activities at a discounted rate. For more information, call 926-5492.

mote events for them to participate in individually and with their peers." From golf specials to discounted food at the Enlisted Club, the GO program offers affordable entertainment. "We want them to realize what Services offers them," Ms. Mammano said. And Senior Airman Karen Price, a fitness specialist at the Fitness Center, is one of many enlisted troops taking notice. "I used the program mainly because you

get a lot of discounts with it," she said. "You get coupons to AAFES (Army Air Force Exchange Service) and stuff like that, which I can use." The 29-year-old Georgia native said the program has given her more options. "It's really awesome," she said. "You get the discounts and there are lots of things to do, and they give away prizes. It's a way to get out there, meet people and get involved." Airman 1st Class Virgil Nieves, a 23-year-old diagnostic imaging technologist with the 78th Medical Group, agreed. "It helps a lot of Airmen who are on a low budget," he said. "Not all Airmen have access to a vehicle, so most of our activities come from the enlisted club, the bowling alley or other things close to us."

Civilian fitness program leader encourages participation

By TECH. SGT. BRIAN BAHRET
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For Phillip House, being diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes might have been the best thing that ever happened to him. The 48-year-old Air Logistics Center human resources specialist said the diagnosis forced him to take action or face serious health problems such as blindness or even death. A lifelong tennis enthusiast, Mr. House used to stay active by playing and coaching the sport he loved. But as time passed, he allowed work to replace his physical activity and his eating habits deteriorated. He said he'd eat more to boost his energy level when it waned during the day, but the energy would ebb quickly leaving him even more drained. "When I got off work, I didn't feel like doing anything," he said. "I was always tired and had no energy. It felt as if I had taken a tranquilizer. "I didn't sleep well at night and had no enthusiasm for any-

thing," he added. "I knew I should've been exercising or something, but just never did. I could never motivate myself." In October, Mr. House visited his doctor only to discover he had Type 2 Diabetes. That's when he decided to make a change in his lifestyle. He enrolled in the civilian fitness program and in health and wellness center courses where he learned he could control the effects of diabetes through physical fitness and eating a nutritionally-balanced diet. Since October, Mr. House has lost 30 pounds by exercising aerobically three times a week. He has revitalized his health using tools available through the civilian fitness program, the HAWC and the fitness center. "It doesn't take a lot to see a big benefit," he said. "It's like I'm a whole different person." "I almost forgot what it feels like to feel so good," he added. Both Mr. House and his wife, Renee, agree that the diagnosis was a catalyst for a fundamental change in his beliefs.



Phillip House, Air Logistics Center human resources specialist, leads the civilian fitness program.

Air Force updates mission statement

By MASTER SGT. MITCH GETTLE
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily. With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force. "Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

653rd CLSS, RAMS team repair C-17 in Bagram

By HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

When Master Sgts. Philip Williams and David Calbillo first saw the severely damaged C-17 Globemaster III belly-down in the sand of Bagram, Afghanistan, in mid-August, its repair seemed impossible. But, when the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron's Aircraft Battle Damage Repair team came together with the Recovery and Modification Services team, or RAMS, the two turned the impossible into a mission capable aircraft. To do that, the group had to dig the Globemaster III out of about 8 cubic yards of sand and dirt to start repairs to its main landing gear and internal systems which were damaged after it crashed during an attempted landing nearly 48 hours earlier. The RAMS team is a group of civilian maintainers from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.; McCord Air Force Base, Wash.; March Air Force Base, Calif.; McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.; and the Boeing Plant in Long Beach, Calif., that performs heavy maintenance and major repairs to C-17s. Sergeant Williams, a 653rd CLSS C-5 Production Element chief who served as the team chief for the repair, said while sand storms, camel spiders and scorpions made fixing the aircraft's damaged components a challenge, it was a worthwhile learning experience for all.

THINK SAFETY

AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
To request a ride, call 335-5218, 335-5238 or 335-5236.

SLOW DOWN ▶ 1087 speeding tickets have been issued to date. Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to 6 months. Speeding violation points are based on the number of miles over the posted speed limit.

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY 56/34 **SATURDAY** 53/32 **SUNDAY** 50/35

FITNESS

Continued from 1A

“It’s as if he needed something to trigger him to work out,” said Chief Master Sergeant Renee House, Air Force Reserve Command command paralegal manager, who married Mr. House in June.

In such a short time, there has been a dramatic improvement in the quality of his life, she said. “His whole disposition has improved. He’s happier and much more content.”

She said his outlook has improved towards work. “He’s sleeping much better and feels he can accomplish more work.

“He’s very enthusiastic about the civilian fitness program because he has seen such a difference in himself,” she said. “He doesn’t understand why more people don’t take advantage of the program,

WELLNESS SCREENINGS

Civilian employees wishing to receive a wellness screening may do so by contacting the Civilian Health Promotions Service, located in room C119 of Building 207, at 327-8030. Additionally, walk-ins may receive the same evaluations by coming to the CHPS office between 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. on Mondays after having fasted the previous night.

especially since it’s all on government time.”

The HAWC evaluated 674 Robins civilians in January, and the results were concerning, said Bridget Zimmerman, HAWC director. Although a low number, it represents a cross section of the civilian work force.

“A lot of people on base are unfit. Forty-five percent of the people tested had high blood pressure,” she said. “Forty percent have a body mass index over 30. They’re clinically obese.”

“We need a change in attitude,” said Mr. House. As the

lead for the civilian fitness program, Mr. House is in a position to share his personal experience and encourage the rest of the civilian work force to exercise regularly.

The base is doing its part to encourage other civilians to follow Mr. House’s lead:

All appropriated fund employees, full or part time, are authorized time during duty hours to stay fit.

Civilians may use resources at the fitness center and the HAWC to improve their health.

The base established walking tracks surrounding

Buildings 300 and 301, 640 and 645, 321, 91, 47 and 48.

“Civilians even get paid while they exercise,” he added explaining that the leave they take for physical fitness is paid leave.

To further encourage civilian employee participation, Maj. Gen. Mike Collings, Center commander, has approved construction on a 43,000-square-foot satellite gym facility in Building 301. The planned gym will include an indoor track, basketball court, an aerobic exercise area and locker rooms with showers.

The facility is scheduled for completion by May 2006.

General Collings has placed a high priority on the civilian fitness program.

“The Center has established a performance metric of at least a 25 percent increase in employee use of fitness leave

for fiscal ’06,” said Mr. House.

Aside from the fitness related upgrades, “(General Collings) is encouraging supervisors to allow employees to participate,” he added.

“Supervisors should lead by example,” he said. “They should work out side-by-side with their employees. It’ll help increase productivity in the long run,”

Healthier employees benefit the mission and help reduce on the job injuries and absenteeism, benefiting the Defense Department, he added.

“All the excuses are gone,” said Mr. House.

The base has done its part, now it’s up to the individual.

“There’s always one more e-mail to send or one more report to write,” said Mr. House. “You have to treat your workout like an appointment. You have to make it a priority and keep it.”

TO PARTICIPATE

A link to the AFMC civilian fitness program policy letter and participation request form are available on the Robins Homepage under the heading AFMC Civilian Health Program Information. Employees who want to participate have to request permission through their first level supervisor using the form provided. The request must contain a doctor’s certificate certifying which physical activities are permitted and that there are no limiting physical conditions unless otherwise noted.

Employees are authorized three hours of fitness leave per week. That includes travel time to and from work and the time it takes to shower and change clothes.

After the paperwork is coordinated, employees must coordinate their workout schedule with their supervisor.

Air Force declares F-22A operational

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. – The Air Force’s most advanced weapon system is ready for combat, Air Force officials here announced Thursday.

In reaching initial operational capability, the F-22A Raptor has been certified ready for employment.

Declaring the transformational fighter IOC means the Raptor’s proven capabilities are now available for use in combat around the globe and are supported by a properly trained and equipped force.

It also means the aircraft is qualified to perform homeland defense missions when required. In the words of Gen. Ronald E. Keys, Air Combat Command commander, “If we go to war tomorrow, the Raptor will go with us.”

“F-22A IOC means our warfighters now have an unprecedented lethal mix of air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities at their disposal,” General Keys said. “The Raptor’s cutting-

edge technology brings us continued joint air dominance despite advancing enemy threats.”

Reaching the IOC milestone culminates a collaborative effort between Air Force organizations and the service’s industry partners over the past 25 years. The road to IOC included the F-22A System Program Office turning Air Force requirements into a successful acquisition program; developmental flight test and evaluation, simulation and ground testing at Edwards AFB, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla.; engine testing at Arnold AFB, Tenn.; missile testing at Holloman AFB, N.M., and over the Pacific Test Range; tactics development at Nellis AFB, Nev.; pilot and maintenance training at Tyndall AFB, Fla.; and deployability here.

“The F-22A fulfills a long quest to bring fifth-generation capabilities of stealth, supercruise and precision to the warfighter today and 30 years

from today,” General Keys said. “Now that we have met our first promised milestone of a fully capable, multi-mission platform ready for combat, we are already focused on furthering our integrated tactics development, refining our deployability, and growing and training our force.

“To add to what we learned on our successful first operational deployment to the Utah Test and Training Range to drop (joint direct attack munitions), fly against double-digit (surface-to-air missiles) at Nellis, and work (close air support) with F-16 FAC-As, we will conduct our first routine peacetime exercise deployment by taking 12 Raptors to Alaska in June for Northern Edge.”

Designed to ensure America’s air dominance for years to come, the F-22A will ensure U.S. joint forces’ freedom from attack and freedom to attack, even as adversaries continue to advance their weapons and technologies.

“As I told (Air Force Chief of

Staff) Gen. (T. Michael) Moseley, he and I have spent our lifetime executing, instructing, and providing air dominance for the joint force.

“Lamentably, we have never been privileged to hold a weapon like this in our hands. After reviewing our test results, seeing our operational deployment performance, and talking to the pilots that will go to war with it, I am confident that the F-22A joins the combat force at a far more mature and capable level than any of our previous great aircraft, and will take its rightful place in a long line of U.S. Air Force legends of the air,” General Keys said.

The first combat-ready Raptors are assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron, one of three squadrons assigned to the 1st Fighter Wing here.

The squadron’s current combat deployment capability with the F-22A is a 12-ship package designed to execute air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.

America, and it is an Airman’s calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

“If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts,” they said. “If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them.”

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, “The Air Force’s mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do.”

Toys for Team Robins



Courtesy photo

The Retired Enlisted Association, Warner Robins Chapter 94, collected toys for the Toys for Team Robins drive. Pictured standing are Toys for Team Robins representatives Master Sgt. Brian Nutter of the 19th Operations Support Squadron and Master Sgt. Bart Craven of the 19th Air Refueling Group. Seated is TREA representative (Ret.) Chief Master Sgt. James Harkins. The toy drive ends Saturday. For more information, call 327-3667, 327-2583 or 327-3121.

Live fire training conducted

The 78th Security Forces Squadron conducts live fire training at the base firing range, located on the northeast side of the base, adjacent to the horse stables.

The firing range is off limits to all personnel, unless scheduled for training or official business. Nearby housing resi-

dents should warn children of the hazards of playing near the area. The ranges are clearly marked with signs, and a red flag during weapons firing. Also, night-fire is conducted throughout the year.

For questions or concerns, call the 78th SFS Combat Arms section at 926-5031.

Airman Against Drunk Driving

Free anonymous rides

335-5218

335-5236

335-5238

MISSION

Continued from 1A

The mission statement defines the “where and what” the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, “sovereign options” and “cyberspace,”

which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

“Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy’s defenses,” they said. “With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the

world.”

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

“We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can’t be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures,” Secretary Wynne said. “The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent.”

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest



653RD

Continued from 1A

“This is the most damage (the Air Force) ever had on a C-17 aircraft, so there’s no written guidance for engineers to go by,” he said. “The engineers had to come up with a complete repair for us.”

Eric Sprague, RAMS site manager at McChord and recovery site lead for the repair, said getting parts to the desert location made the repair a challenge.

“We went into this thing kind of blind,” he said. “We’ve never dealt with any damage to this extent on a C-17 before. So, having the correct tooling and necessary parts and fasteners to do this job was the biggest challenge. We were 7,000 miles from our home station in Long Beach, Calif., so it takes a little while to get things moved around.”

As maintainers cut away mangled sheet metal from the aircraft, sand poured out from its belly, making repairs even more difficult.

Sergeant Calbillo, the 653rd CLSS assistant team chief for the repair project, said despite conditions, crews worked around the clock with bombs exploding in the distance and flashes of explosions from miles away to get the plane ready for a flight to Boeing’s Long Beach plant for permanent repairs.

“The plane was so badly damaged that we had to basically rebuild the whole belly section of the aircraft and the pod by hand,” he said. “That really challenged us; but it excited us at the same time, because we actually got to put our minds to work doing the repairs ourselves.”

Ken Crumpler, Field Engineering and Technical Support Group manager in



charge of C-17 mechanical systems and structures at Charleston Air Force Base, said the repair took a team effort to accomplish.

“It went well,” he said. “With something like this, you think of this boilerplate and getting her out of there logistically was probably the biggest challenge. Getting materials and supplies to the fight, due to the location, was tough; but both the Air Force and Boeing mechanics rose to the challenge. They were true artisans.”

The repair job went far better than Mr. Sprague had imagined.

“We surprised a lot of people,” he said. “The expectations were that it would take anywhere from three-to-six months to repair that aircraft. We had it done in just over two months. A lot of aircrews who came by and visited the aircraft didn’t think it would ever fly again.”

Mr. Sprague said he’s proud

of all who helped make it happen.

“This was a world-class recovery,” he said. “Everybody who was out there did an outstanding job. They worked long, hard hours. They gave everything they could to get this plane turned around and return it to Long Beach for the repair.

U.S. Air Force photos

Top: Master Sgt. Phillip Williams drills new longerons to give the C-17 strength and stiffness onto which the new belly fuselage skins will be attached.

Bottom: Master Sgt. David Calbillo fabricates and rebuilds the right main landing gear pod.

Money matters

Family Support Center offers advice for avoiding holiday financial blues

By **HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD**
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With holiday sales and Christmas wish lists a mile long, it's easy to overspend this holiday season.

But Bill Heaberg, a Family Support Center community readiness consultant here, said with a little planning, you can enjoy giving without going broke.

"One of the things that happens this time of year is that people see everyone going out shopping and stores have things on

sale, even before Christmas most of the time," he said. "People need to really ask themselves if they really need what they're buying, and if it's a gift, does the person you're buying it for, need or want it."

Mr. Heaberg said setting a budget and sticking to it is one of the best ways to help your bank account survive the holiday rush.

"Go with a set list of what you're going to get," he said. "Try to combine your trips so that you don't go out, come back and go out again, spending a lot of money in fuel costs, in addition to what you're spending at the stores."

Capt. Jeremiah McBride, 402nd Maintenance Group executive officer, said for him and his wife Leah, paying for Christmas gifts by check or cash helps maintain the limits they've set.

"We don't use credit cards to buy Christmas presents," he said. "We'll pay with cash or check. If we ever have to use the credit card, we know the cash will be there and we pay it off by the end of the month."

The 28-year-old Florida native said having a car loan company that allows him to skip his December payment and make it up by adding another month to his loan life gives him a little breathing room at the holidays.



Bill Heaberg is a Family Support Center community readiness consultant.

Robert Ashcroft, a 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing requirements computation specialist, said stashing money months before the holiday helps his family stay financially afloat.

"We usually save a little money each month, and we say, 'this is how much we can spend this year,'" he said. "We ask the kids what the one big item is that they want individually and then we buy them clothes and stuff like that."

The 44-year-old father of three said it's good to talk to your kids about your financial limits during the holidays.

"Just keep it simple and don't go crazy," he said. "You don't need 15 or 20 gifts to be happy. My parents didn't have a lot, but they appreciated what they did get."

Mr. Ashcroft, a U.S. Army Reservist from Arizona, said sharing those values with your children and other family members helps ease the financial burden of the holiday and make it more meaningful.

"If you go overboard this year, where does that leave you next year?" he said. "You'll want to out do what you did this year. It's a never-ending cycle."

Mr. Ashcroft said although avoiding credit cards is best, sometimes they're necessary.

"If we have to use the credit card, we use the one with the lowest interest rate and we pay it off with our income tax refund," he said.

Mr. Heaberg said one way to cut down on your expenses during the gift-giving season is to re-evaluate how you express yourself.

"One of the things a lot of families do is draw names to decide who they buy for during



U.S. Air Force photo illustration by **SUE SAPP**

Stay within your budget's limits to avoid overspending during the holidays.

Christmas," he said. "This way you don't end up buying for all of the aunts, uncles and cousins. You're buying only for one person and everyone gets something without the burden of extra expense."

Getting gifts at thrift shops and other charitable stores helps people save money and helps others at the same time, Mr. Heaberg said.

If you're already caught in the snare of debt, Mr. Heaberg said the center's staff of accred-

ited financial counselors and trained staff can help get your finances back on track.

"Every month, we do a money and credit management class," he said. "It's an overall 'getting your act together' kind of class for those people who need a little help with their personal financial management skills."

Whether your Christmas wish lists are big or small or your wallet is full or nearly running on empty, with the right

CLASSES

2006 Money and Credit Management classes will be held at the Family Support Center, 1 to 4 p.m., on the following dates: Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 30, April 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, and Dec. 14.

approach you can have a merry Christmas that doesn't leave you penniless Dec. 26.

New program prepares Airmen for combat

By **TECH. SGT. BRIAN BAHRET**
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At a time when Airmen are making history filling combat roles typically reserved for the Army or security forces, the Air Force has recognized the need to provide combat training to deploying personnel.

The Air Force has directed each base to provide 19 hours of lecture and eight hours of practical combat training to deploying Airmen. According to 1st Lt. Steven Wymore, 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron assistant installation deployment officer, Robins developed a two-week course that exceeds the Air Force’s basic requirements.

Beginning in January, Airmen will see a change in the way they train for future deployments. The training is required for all Airmen through the rank of colonel.

Robins is tying the required training and all the necessary checklists involved in a deployment into a two-week course called the Battlefield Airman program. Airmen assigned to Air Expeditionary Force 1 and 2 will be among the first to attend the course.

Course facilitators will provide Airmen with everything from a centralized deployment out-processing opportunity to all the training they might need in a combat environment. On completion, the Airmen will be 100 percent ready to deploy, said Lieutenant Wymore.

A streamlined process, the program will reduce the time it takes to prepare for deployments, he added.



U.S. Air Force photo by TECH. SGT. BRIAN BAHRET

Above. Using an M-16 as a prop, Tech. Sgt. Chris Maddox, 78th Security Forces Squadron element leader, demonstrates how hostile forces may target U.S assets with shoulder fired weapons. Below, Master Sgt. William King, left, 78th Civil Engineer Squadron, simulates scanning his lane for enemy forces near his area. After gathering information about the Airmen acting as opposing forces approaching his position, he must report what he sees.

“We don’t want to waste any time,” said Lieutenant Wymore. “We want to make it smooth for the deployment.”

Students will spend the first week in the classroom where they will receive refresher courses in the self-aide buddy care, chemical warfare and combat arms training.

During the second week, 78th Security Forces Squadron instructors will give a three-day course outlining combat techniques essential for survival, said Capt. Marco Tassone, 78th SFS chief of

training and resources.

The instructors will use the first two days for classroom

instruction, and Airmen will spend the third day in the field applying the lessons.

“They’ll learn basic combat training techniques,” said Tech. Sgt. Chris Maddox, 78th SFS mid-shift element leader. “They’ll learn everything from small unit tactics, to combat communications, to the proper use of fire arms”

Several Airmen assigned to AEF 1 and 2 attended the security force’s component of the training Tuesday through Thursday. The 78th LRS will use the feedback from those Airmen to iron out any issues that may arise.

Assigned to AEF 1, Master Sgt. William King, 78th Civil



Engineer Squadron environmental flight, has not deployed in nearly three years. He was among the first to be selected for training.

He said the course helped raise his comfort level.

“We’re learning how to take care of ourselves and others,” he said. “It’ll help me ensure the people I work with are safe.”

The course also helped him better understand his role during an attack.

“We’re learning how to defend an airfield,” said Sergeant King. “They’re showing us how far we can go with the use of force.”

“You have to know what to do when you’re being attacked,” added Lieutenant Wymore.

Most of the Airman can point a weapon downrange and fire towards a target, said Sergeant Maddox, but in hostile environment, they need to communicate effectively while on the move.

“If you’re not communicating your efforts, how far are you going to go?” he asked. “If we give them what they need to survive, there’s no way they’ll fail.”

As the Global War on Terrorism continues, people who normally fill support roles will find themselves doing everything from escorting convoys to defending an airfield, said Captain Tassone.

“We’re handing guns to people who’ve never been issued guns before,” he said. “Airmen need to be ready to do things they’ve never done, or haven’t done since basic training. Hopefully one day something we’ve taught them may save a life.”

Common sense key to safe holiday

By **HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD**
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Using common sense this holiday season could save your life and even your home, said base fire officials.

Holiday-related fires cause an estimated 2,600 injuries and more than \$930 million in damage, according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

Tom Kennedy, Base Fire Department assistant fire chief, said people can protect themselves from such misfortune by putting a little extra thought into how they prepare for the Christmas season.

“If you just use common sense, fire safety can go a long way,” he said.

Choosing your tree

Whether you choose a natural tree or an artificial one, Mr. Kennedy said there are some things to keep in mind.

“One thing about a live tree that is very important to consider is the freshness of the tree,” he said. “It’s got to be green and the needles should be hard to pull from the branches. They shouldn’t break off when bent between the fingers.”

Natural Christmas trees should be sticky with resin at the base and should be cut about a half inch from the bottom and kept in water to maintain freshness and prevent drying, Mr. Kennedy said.

Choosing the right artificial tree is just as important.

“When looking for an artificial tree, people need to look for a label that says it’s fire resistant,” Mr. Kennedy said. “This doesn’t mean that the tree won’t catch on fire. It just indicates that the tree is more resistant to burning.”

Dressing it up

Lights, ornaments and tinsel may put a sparkle in your eye, but choosing such decorations unwisely can ruin your holiday.

“You want to use non-combustible, flame resistant lighting and trimmings on your tree,” Mr. Kennedy said. “You should

never use outdoor Christmas lights on your tree. This kind of light is meant for outdoor weather conditions and can get much hotter than indoor lighting.”

In addition, Mr. Kennedy said people should keep all candles and heat sources away from Christmas decorations and out of the reach of children to prevent household fires.

David Chaplin, fire inspector with the Base Fire Department, said ensuring lights and other electric tree decorations are powered using the right source is important.

“People tend to set up those little train sets and villages around their Christmas trees and they overload their electrical outlets,” he said. “That’s serious. If you have a small extension cord and you’re powering a lot of electrical equipment, those smaller cords aren’t designed to handle that much electricity and they tend to overheat, break down and can cause a fire.”

Mr. Chaplin said it’s best to check labels on extension cords to ensure the right kind is used.

Cooking up trouble

Although many may think Christmas dinner is one of the best parts of the holiday, Mr. Chaplin said it can cook up a lot of trouble if proper fire safety isn’t used.

“People tend to use big turkey fryers,” he said. “One mistake made is that they put either a frozen chicken or turkey into the boiling liquid and it tends to make it boil over due to the quick temperature change.”

Mr. Chaplin said several people have lost their homes as a result of fires started with turkey fryers.

The fire inspector recommends that people thaw their chicken or turkey before placing the meat into the cooker and should make sure the cooker is placed far from roofs and other structures that could catch fire.

The importance of keeping smoke detectors working and family members trained on the household fire escape plan is just as important during the hol-

iday season as ever, Mr. Chaplin said.

Show is over

Mr. Kennedy said instead of tossing your tree in the fireplace, people should check with their local trash and recycle service providers to learn how to properly dispose of the wooded holi-

day symbol.

In addition, Mr. Kennedy said people should never dispose of wrapping paper in the fireplace, as it can cause a flash fire which could get out of hand, causing a larger home fire.

With the right mind set, you too can have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

WHAT TO KNOW

For more information on holiday fire safety, contact the Base Fire Department at 926-2145.

Residents in base housing should lay their Christmas tree on the curb beside their trashcans after use. Old Christmas trees will be picked up by trash services on regular garbage pick up days. For more information, contact Cynthia Collier, service contract monitor, at 327-8907.

FIRE RETARDING YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Ingredients

- 2 cups of Karo syrup
- 2 ounces of liquid chlorine bleach
- 2 pinches of Epsom salt
- ½ teaspoon of Borax
- 1 teaspoon of chelated iron
- 2 gallons hot water

Directions

- (1) Mix your fireproofing ingredients together. Fill a 2-gallon bucket with hot water to within 1 inch of the top and add the ingredients. Stir thoroughly, dissolving the ingredients. Put to the side.
- (2) With a saw, cut an inch off the tree’s base, making a level cut.
- (3) Immediately stand the tree trunk in the solution and leave for 24 hours.
- (4) Keep the remaining solution. Place the tree in a tree stand that contains a well where liquids can be poured.
- (5) When the tree is in place, use a plastic cup to pour the solution from the bucket into the tree well and fill the well.
- (6) Fill the tree well with the solution every day.

Holiday hours

Facilities open

BASE LIBRARY

- Monday through Thursday and Dec. 27 through 29 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Dec. 23 and 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Dec. 24 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

BOWLING CENTER

- Dec. 26 through 29 from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 30 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Dec. 31, opens at 9 p.m.

ENLISTED CLUB

- Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. for New Year's festivities

FITNESS CENTER

- Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 1 and 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FLIGHT LINE KITCHEN

- Remains open

GOLF COURSE

- Dec. 24 until 2 p.m.

LODGING

- Normal hours of operation

OFFICERS CLUB

- Dec. 31 at 6:30 p.m. for New Year's festivities

TEEN CENTER

- Dec. 27 through 30 from 4 to 8 p.m.

VET SERVICES

- Dec. 27 through 29 with limited hours

WYNN DINING FACILITY

- Dec. 25 normal hours and Christmas meal served from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

YOUTH CENTER

- Dec. 27 through 30 from noon to 7 p.m.

Facilities Closed

AERO CLUB

- Administration and Sales, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

ARTS & CRAFTS CENTER

- Dec. 24 through Jan. 2

AUTO SKILLS CENTER

- Dec. 24 and 31 at 2 p.m.
- Dec. 25 through 27, Jan. 1

BASE LIBRARY

- Dec. 24 through 26, Jan. 1, 2

BASE RESTAURANT

- Dec. 26 and Jan. 2
- Mobile trucks will run three routes Dec. 23 and Dec. 27 through 30, and will resume normal hours Jan. 3
- Snack bars: all will close Monday through Dec. 23 at 1 p.m. All are closed Dec. 26 through 30; Building 645 Snack bar/no deli operations will close Jan. 3 through 6 at 1 p.m. Vending will be closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 2.

BOWLING CENTER

- Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER EAST AND WEST

- Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

ENLISTED CLUB

- Dec. 24 through 26, Jan. 1
- Lunch buffet closed Dec. 19 through Jan. 3

EQUIPMENT RENTAL CENTER

- Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

FAMILY CHILD CARE

- Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

FITNESS CENTER

- Dec. 25

FLIGHT LINE DINING FACILITY

- Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

FOOD SERVICE OFFICE

- Dec. 26 through Jan. 2

GOLF COURSE

- Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

HONOR GUARD/ MORTUARY AFFAIRS/ READINESS

- Normal hours of operation
- Administrative office closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE

- Dec. 26 through Jan. 2

INFORMATION, TICKETS AND TRAVEL

- Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

JAPANESE GRILL

- Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

MARKETING

- Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

NATURE CENTER

- Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

OFFICERS CLUB

- Dec. 24 through 26, Jan. 1

PIZZA DEPOT

- Dec. 24 through 26, Dec. 31 through Jan. 2

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE/NAF

- Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

SKEET RANGE

- Dec. 25 and 26, Jan. 1 and 2

COMMUNITY CENTER

- Dec. 24 through Jan. 2

TEEN CENTER

- Dec. 24 through 26, Dec. 30 through Jan. 2

VET SERVICES

- Dec. 23, 26, and 30, Jan. 2

WOOD SHOP

- Dec. 24 at 2 p.m., Dec. 25 through Jan. 2

YOUTH CENTER

- Dec. 24 through 26, Dec. 31 through Jan. 2

November re-enlistments

The following service members re-enlisted during the month of November. Re-enlistees should contact their first sergeant for AAFES Re-enlistment Appreciation Coupons.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Claudia Lowe at 222-0178.

- Senior Airman Michal Elston
- Staff Sgt. Calvin McCray
- Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Forbus

- Senior Airman Johnnie Lampton
- Tech. Sgt. Charles Hall
- Senior Airman Andrew Sun
- Staff Sgt. Justin Pollock
- Master Sgt. Tony Woods
- Staff Sgt. Michael Corbin
- Tech. Sgt. Chad Ellebracht
- Tech. Sgt. Christopher Coleman
- Staff Sgt. Tonya Powell
- Tech Sgt. Richard Stewart
- Staff Sgt. Comeilus White
- Staff Sgt. Joslyn Woods
- Senior Master Sgt. Steve Stoute
- Staff Sgt. Willie Andino
- Master Sgt. Jason Toney
- Staff Sgt. Gerald Russell
- Staff Sgt. Jeremy Kennon

- Senior Airman Joshua Kieffer
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Blackmon
- Staff Sgt. Ryan Miles
- Master Sgt. Richard Glosser Jr.
- Master Sgt. Mack Woodard
- Senior Master Sgt. Michael Stewart
- Tech. Sgt. Pat Buckroth
- Tech Sgt. David Kolesar
- Staff Sgt. James Adams
- Staff Sgt. Latoya Perry
- Staff Sgt. Tiffany Baumgardner
- Staff Sgt. Timothy Shreve
- Chief Master Sgt. Jonathan Brunner
- Master Sgt. Lewis Wells
- Senior Airman Salim Charania

- Master Sgt. Gene Kinder
- Tech. Sgt. Michael Nienhaus
- Tech. Sgt. Travis Newkirk
- Master Sgt. Thomas Vitone
- Chief Master Sgt. Robert Starkey
- Master Sgt. Hal Bradshaw
- Tech. Sgt. David Cleek
- Master Sgt. Charles Law Jr.
- Senior Master Sgt. Phillip Brown
- Master Sgt. Henry Laguatan
- Master Sgt. Jose Perez
- Master Sgt. Michael Edwards
- Master Sgt. William Rule III
- Master Sgt. Cherie Rogers
- Master Sgt. Michael Seals
- Tech. Sgt. Tamatha Ogle

“Our Airmen and their families need to know that the right focus is being placed on their well-being; physically, emotionally and spiritually, and who they can turn to for help.”

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray, speaking at the “Very Important Patriots” Awards dinner, the National Military Family Association, Washington, Nov. 15

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GUIDELINES

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CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad, call The Telegraph at (478) 744-4234.

ONLINE

To read articles online, visit www.robins.af.mil/pa/revup-online/index.html.

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Center commander sends holiday message

The leaves are finally changing color in Middle Georgia, and the holiday season is upon us once again. This is a special time of year for us all. The holidays provide us a time to rejoice in our blessings and encourage us to remember those who are important to us.

This is a special time of year for many different groups. This is the season of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. Whatever you celebrate, please take the time to safely enjoy your family and friends and to renew your spirit.

We are truly blessed to be employed in our nation’s defense. I am extremely proud of how we have shared our good fortune with those in need. This year, the Robins’ community set new records for contributions in both the Combined Federal Campaign and Air Force Assistance Fund drives. Many of us also gave of our time and money to help victims of Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters. Thanks for your selfless generosity – you provided countless blessings to others when they needed it most.

I am especially proud of the tremendous support you provided to our war fighters this year. Our Center delivered record-setting performance – what we do here at Robins means the difference between success and failure in combat.

As we rejoice in our success, we know the holidays are a challenging time for many people. Please remember our Team Robins’ Airmen, as well as other servicemen and women who cannot be home to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. They are defending the freedoms we all enjoy safely here at home; yet this can be an especially difficult time for them, their families and their friends.

During this holiday season, we should continue to remember that many people are still struggling to rebuild their lives after the disastrous hurricanes in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. These are fellow Americans who lost family members, homes and businesses.

Others closer to home are struggling with their own problems this season. This is where the spirit of the holidays really comes into focus – recognizing those in need and reaching out through our giving. The same spirit we cherish during the holidays should carry on in our hearts throughout the year.

Above all, this holiday season, remember to give a little of yourself. I am not talking



Jared, Jan, and Maj. Gen Mike Collings along with family pet Marcus wish everyone a happy holiday season.

about buying gifts. I am talking about lending a hand, sharing a meal or comforting a friend. Give from the heart. It is the best gift of all, it is the most appreciated, and it is good for the soul.

To you and your family, from my family and me – Happy Holidays.

This commentary was written by Maj. Gen. Michael A. Collings, Center commander.

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

A rotund, jolly, rosy-cheeked guy and two carrots; surefire ingredients for cultural crossfire

Partially eaten sugar cookies, a half-glass of whole milk and the remains of two carrots.

OK, cookies and milk make sense. The rotund, jolly, rosy-cheeked guy garbed in red who visited my childhood home every year on Christmas Eve devoured those leav- ing little but crumbs – but carrots? How do you explain those away?

My parents never could fully answer the questions. “The carrots are for the reindeer,” they explained.

For a few years that made sense, but I grew concerned again, after all, everyone knows Santa has nine reindeer. We only left two carrots on the plate. Don’t they all get hungry?

A bright boy, I also realized that we never left the carrots on the front porch; I’m sure the reindeer would have appreciated that. Instead, the reindeer must have somehow entered our house and ate the carrots in our living room. I’m convinced they fol- lowed Santa down the chimney. That led to another thought - lacking opposable thumbs, how did the reindeer climb down the chim- ney to eat the carrots?

To this day, my parents still don’t have a response to that one.

As a child, my parents helped pique my interest in Christmas with stories of Santa traversing the world spreading joy to every- one he visited. He would encourage people to behave well and treat others as they would like to be treated – a parallel that helped me understand the fundamentals of Christianity.

My parents also helped me understand our family’s belief in the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Finally, they shared with me that not everyone understands or believes in Christmas or the significance it means to Christians.

At first, I was shocked. For as long as I can remember, my fami- ly spent Christmas Eve with aunts, uncles

and cousins. We’d begin the evening with a meal fit for kings, prepared by some of the most amazing chefs I’d ever met (gratuitous plug in case mom and aunts read this). Following the meal, we’d stroll up North Maple Avenue to the town center where we’d spend the next couple of hours, bundled in winter clothes, singing carols alongside other townspeople, family and friends. After carol- ing, we would either attend the midnight serv- ice at the Presbyterian Church or Mass at the Catholic Church where we would celebrate the birth of Jesus.

I thought every town was the same, and that all people followed our tradi- tion.

Anticipating my initial surprised reaction, my parents described some of the cultural differences and explained why differing viewpoints are essential to progress.

My parents taught me that diversity helps make America the great nation that it is. The Air Force has reinforced that belief for me.

Nearly 10 years into my military career, I’ve met people from all walks of life, and through them, have learned that no two cul- tures are exactly the same. No two families hold the same beliefs whether it’s religious or cultural.

Most Christian families celebrate Christmas, most Jewish families observe Hanukkah, some African Americans cele- brate Kwanzaa and Muslims honor Ramadan. The list of religious holidays are too numerous to mention.

Diversity is why America is one of the most successful nations. Americans are not afraid to follow their beliefs, but more

importantly, they’re not afraid to share their ideas.

America is a melting pot where people of all the world’s religions gather to live freely.

Tolerance is what makes America strong. We can all learn from one another.

Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel, agrees.

“A crucial part of our vision is that the religious diversity we share as Americans is a strength that sets us apart from many other nations,” he said. “At a time when many nations are torn apart by religious strife, we must understand that our ability to stand together as Americans and as Airmen – those who represent many religions, shoul- der-to-shoulder with those who claim no religion – is part of our heritage and our strength.”

I’ve watched and listened to people become aggravated by the emphasis placed on Christmas. I’ve heard other arguments that oppose focusing attention on Muslim or Jewish celebrations.

Instead of getting aggravated, I suggest using the Christmas season, and the other holidays as they arise, as a tool for under- standing the beliefs of that religion or cul- ture. I’m not suggesting anyone convert, I’m just suggesting that people use it as an opportunity to learn more about the culture.

All the great leaders I know urge people to lead by example. So, here’s my offer:

For those who celebrate Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or Ramadan, I hope you’ll help me understand your culture and customs when they arrive.

African American, Jewish or Muslim, or anyone else in the melting pot called America, if you’re in the mood to help me figure out how the reindeer shimmy down my chimney, I’ll share the cookies as we await St. Nick’s midnight arrival.

This commentary was written by Tech. Sgt. Brian Bahret, staff writer/graphic artist with The Robins Rev-Up.



Tech. Sgt. Brian Bahret is a staff writer/graphic artist with The Robins Rev-Up.



Col. Greg Patterson
78th Air Base Wing
commander

Commander’s
Action Line

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Remember that the most effi- cient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to direct- ly contact the organization respon- sible:

- Security Forces 327-3445;
- Services Division 926-5491;
- EEO Office 926-2131;
- MEO 926-6608;
- Employee Relations 926-5802;

- Military Pay 926-3777;
- IDEA 926-2536;
- Base hospital 327-7850;
- Civil engineering 926-5657;
- Public Affairs 926-2137;
- Safety Office 926-6271;
- Fraud, Waste and Abuse hot- line 926-2393;
- Housing Office 926-3776.

This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 or for the quickest response, e-mail one of the follow- ing addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account, use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up. Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

Motorcycle shelter

As you know the rising price of gas has caused a lot of Robins employees to ride motorcycles to work. A few of the guys in Buildings 81, 82, 83, 125 and flight line came up with a great idea to aid in the parking and storing of per- sonal property.

The idea is to build a small shelter over the motorcycle parking area near Building 155. This shelter would allow cyclists to leave bulky items with their bikes and not have to carry them to and from their work stations.

It will also protect the motor- cycles and personal items from rain. There have been many instances where cyclists have left their belongings - i.e. jackets, helmets, hats, etc. - only to return to rain soaked items.

Colonel Patterson’s Reply

Thank you for your interest in improving parking on Robins. Motorcycle parking shelters on Robins are cur- rently only provided next to Building 756 for use by the dormitory residents.

Additional shelters next to the hundreds of buildings on base would be difficult to justi- fy. With resources for con- struction limited, projects must be chosen based on cost effectiveness and the greatest benefit to the overall base population.

It is not advisable to leave expensive items such as hel- mets and jackets unsecured. All items should be properly secured by the owner.

Military justice

During the period of Dec. 4 through Dec. 15, no members of Robins Air Force Base received non-judicial punishment under

Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

There were no administrative discharges

under the rapid airman discharge program processed during this time period.

– 78th Air Base Wing Legal Office

► IN BRIEF

CDC SPACES AVAILABLE

Spaces for children ages 6 weeks to 6 months and 3 to 5 years are available in the Child Development Centers. Parents may contact Vera Keasley at 926-6741 for placement.

The basic childcare fee ranges from \$61 to \$116 per week per child for full-time care. The total family’s income information is needed to determine the weekly childcare fee.

Hourly care is available in CDC-West for children ages 2 to 5 years. The cost is \$3 per hour per child. Reservations can be made at least two weeks in advance by calling 926-3080.

For more information please call Family Child Care at 926-6741 or CDC West at 926-3080.

WALK/RUN PLANNED

A Health Awareness Walk/Runs will be held Jan. 13 at the Fitness Center track to raise awareness about prostate/testicular health. Those who participate in seven out of nine walks receive a competitive medal. For more information, call the Health and Wellness Center at 327-8480 or 327-8034.

MUSEUM SHOWS D-DAY FILM

Museum of Aviation will present its monthly Hangar Talk with the film “D-Day: Down to Earth” today at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the VistaScope Theater, correlating with the month’s theme Aviation History Month. The VistaScope Theater is located on the first floor of the Eagle Building. The documentary features real-life accounts of the members of the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, the first to drop onto the shores of Normandy on D-Day.

Hangar Talks are free and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-serve. This movie is not rated. For more information, contact Heather Stone at (478) 926-6870 or visit www.museumofaviation.org.

TOYS DRIVE ENDS SATURDAY

The 26th annual Toys for Team Robins toy drive hosted by

the 19th Air Refueling Group Black Knights has begun, and will continue through Saturday.

This program supports all of Robins Air Force Base, military and civilian, by providing toys for those who may have a little difficulty providing their children with toys during the holiday season. Toy donations can be made

through unit points of contact or first sergeants.

Donations should be a new unwrapped toy. Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation should e-mail or call Master Sgt. Brian Nutter, Master Sgt. Bart Craven or Tech Sgt. Bruce Frueh of the 19th Operations Support Squadron, 327-3667, 327-2583 or

327-3121. Supervisors and commanders are encouraged to send in names of their troops who may require assistance, as well as number of children with age and gender, to the respective first sergeants.

SURVEY AVAILABLE SOON

The annual Air Force

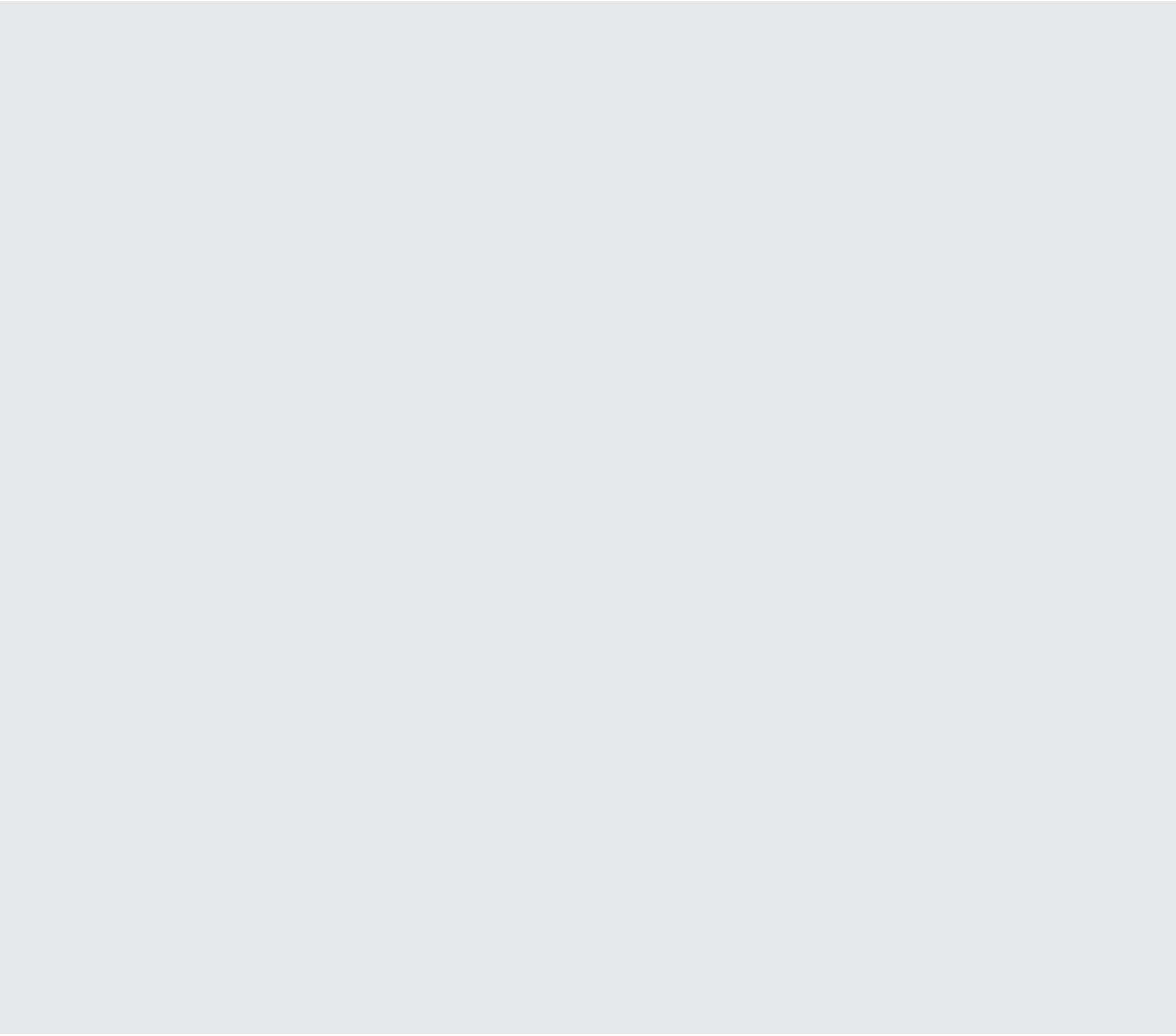
Customer Feedback Survey will be delivered soon to Robins and given randomly to individuals throughout the base. The survey is used to measure customer satisfaction, quality of service, quality of facilities, quality of equipment and materials, value for price paid, and an overall assessment of

at least 20 of the division’s major

programs. This survey is easy to complete, has a self-addressed envelope and requires no postage.

Customers who take the time to answer the survey provide input that will have a major impact on future Services programs.

Call Services Marketing at 926-5492 for more information.



Museum Marathon scheduled for January

The 10th annual Museum of Aviation Foundation Marathon, Half Marathon and 5K Run/Walk will be held at the Museum of Aviation Jan. 14. The Museum Foundation and the Robins Pacers Running, Walking Club sponsor the event, one of the largest marathon races held in Middle Georgia and a member of the 2006 “Run & See Georgia Grand Prix Series”. Proceeds from the event benefit the Museum of Aviation, one of the largest education-focused aviation museums in the country. Last year more than 500 runners and walkers from all over the United States participated in the races held on Robins. All three courses are USA Track and Field certified, making the events qualifiers for national and international events like the Boston Marathon. All three races are run at Robins having relatively flat courses with several short

inclines. Runners and walkers whose registrations are post-marked by Jan. 2 are guaranteed a quality colorful long-sleeve shirt on race day. Trophies are awarded to the overall top three male and female finishers in each race; the overall top male and female masters in each race; the top active duty military male and female in the marathon; the overall top male, female and mixed marathon relay teams; as well as the top three male and female finishers in fourteen different age categories. Each marathon and half-marathon runner will receive a medallion with ribbon as they cross the finish line. The start time for the marathon and half marathon is 8 a.m. The 5K Run/Walk will start at 8:15 a.m. Race packets may be picked up at the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar on race day only

between 6:30-7:30 a.m. A picture ID is required at registration/check-in. Award ceremonies start at 9:30 a.m. in the Museum's Century of Flight Hangar. Entry fees are \$80 for a relay team, \$40 for the marathon, \$30 for the half marathon and \$18 for the 5K run/walk. A \$5 surcharge applies for registrations after Jan. 2. To register or for more information call race director John Hunter at 926-6686 (day) or 953-5335 (evening) or email John at hunterjh@cox.net. For museum and race information call June Lowe or Mary Lynn Harrison at 923-6600 or e-mail MaryLynn. Harrison@museumofaviation.org. Online detailed race information can be found at <http://robinspacers.org> or www.museumofaviation.org Runners can register online at <http://active.com>.
— *From staff reports*

Base drivers reminded to give pedestrians right of way

Drivers on Robins Air Force Base are required by law to stop for pedestrians in or beginning to cross the roadway within a crosswalk. This rule applies to all vehicles, including golf carts. Following are tips to help walkers stay safe: Cross only at corners or marked crosswalks. Stop at the curb or edge of the road. Look in both directions. Ensure vehicles in both directions stop before entering a crosswalk. Never step in front of a vehicle at the last minute. Give the vehicle plenty of time to stop.
— *Carl Wilkins, 78 Air Base Wing Ground Safety manager*

Pass & Registration office now has year updates for vehicle decals

The 78th Security Forces Pass & Registration office now has year updates for vehicle decals. Anyone previously issued a vehicle decal who didn’t receive the required year date is asked to stop by the SFS Pass & Vehicle Registration office to get the required year decal. Additionally, the 78th SFS Operating Instruction requires all Active Duty/Retired military and Department of Defense employees assigned to Robins to register their vehicle or vehicles within three duty days of in-processing

the base. Anyone with a vehicle/motor home or motorcycle decal that is expired, or with a vehicle decal from another installation, is asked to stop by the Pass & Vehicle Registration Section for an updated sticker. The Pass & Vehicle Registration Section offices are located in Building 118 (the new visitors center), adjacent to the Watson Street Gate, and Building 263, on the corner of Perry Street and Peacekeeper Way. Contractor services relocated to

Building 118 in August. The following supporting documents are required when either obtaining a vehicle decal or updating the year sticker that has expired: ► A valid Uniform Service or government identification card ► A valid state driver’s license ► Current vehicle registration or copy for all vehicles to be registered ► Current proof of insurance ► All DoD personnel wishing to register or re-register a motor-

cycle must produce a valid Motorcycle Safety Course card – no exceptions. Additionally, some organizations are authorized to issue decals and year updates. For more information about vehicle registration, contact the Pass & Vehicle Registration Section at 222-0774 or 922-1998. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and 7:30 – 11:45 a.m. Wednesday.
— *From staff reports*



Sounds of the Season

AFRC Band concerts
bring music to life



By LANORRIS ASKEW
Lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Members of Team Robins' musical community have been busy this holiday season bringing joy to audiences around the world.

From Operation Season's Greetings – a whirlwind tour to bring the sights and sounds of the season to troops overseas – to a special performance here, The Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve is using the world's universal language of music to help celebrate the holidays.

Getting in on the fun, Reserve Generation, a part of the Band of the Air Force Reserve, went on a deployment of sorts where they supported Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. They entertained about 3,500 troops from all branches of service.

The tour, which ran from Oct. 25 to Nov. 13, included 10 shows in eight locations ranging from Al Udiid, Qatar, to Al Dhafra, United Arab Emirates.

"I was very proud of Reserve Generation for what they did," said Senior Master Sgt. John S. Cornacchione Operations specialist. "Besides always putting on a kicking show, they were great to work with and all very professional. The one response I consistently received was that Reserve Generation was the best entertain-

ment they had over there so far, and many of the folks preferred a military band over civilian groups."

Senior Airman Sam Kennedy, regional band journeyman, bass player and vocalist, agreed.

"They loved us every place we went," he said. "We had a great response, and I can truly say it was the most fulfilling tour of my musical career."

Kicking off Nov. 21, Operation Season's Greetings covered about a 12,000-mile round trip tour and included celebrities like Trick Pony, John Popper, and several New England Patriots Cheerleaders.

The annual European tour made stops at Spandahlem Air Base, Ramstein Air Base and Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; Keflavik, Iceland; and at least one deployed location in Southwest Asia. The tour ended Dec. 3.

Rounding out the concert series, the most recent performance took place Dec. 8 at the Warner Robins Civic Center where the band presented a free holiday concert for the community. The program featured music from the band's annual holiday Radio Show, "Holiday Notes from Home," a mixture of traditional holiday carols and novelty segments including a setting of T'was the Night Before Christmas, complete with illustrations by Houston County third-grade students.



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Above: Master Sgt. Scott Gunn on bagpipes performs during the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve's annual holiday concert for the Middle Georgia community Dec. 8 at the Warner Robins Civic Center.

Top right: Tech. Sgt. Jessica Welles plays at the concert.

Below: The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve performs under the command of Capt. Chad Steffey.

U.S. Air Force photos

Members of the Reserve Generation, a part of the Band of the Air Force Reserve, perform for injured troops at a hospital in Balad, Iraq.



U.S. Air Force photo by AIRMAN JULIANNE TRULSON

Singer Staff Sgt. Frances Wright, United States Air Force in Europe Reserve Band, and Blues Traveler John Popper perform in Operation Seasons Greetings, Hangar 1, Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany, Nov. 23.



TODAY

A holiday cookie project is scheduled for 2 p.m. Parents are encouraged to assist children with decorating holiday cookies and to enjoy the finished products. For more information, call the Arts & Crafts Center at 926-5282.

SUNDAY

Officers' Club Sunday brunch with Santa is from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$9.95 members, \$11.95 nonmembers, \$6.95 children ages 3 to 11 and free for children 2 and younger. For more information call 926-2670.

World Wrestling Entertainment Armageddon pay-per-view will be aired at the Enlisted Club at 8 p.m. Free to members and \$5 for guests. For more information call 926-4515.

The Officers' Club brunch is from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with all-you-care-to-enjoy breakfast and dinner entrees. Cost: \$9.95 for members, \$11.95 for nonmembers. For more information, call 926-2670.

Football Frenzy 2005 makes a touchdown at the Robins Enlisted Club at noon on Sundays. By participating, club members have an opportunity to win a trip to a pro or super bowl game. Call 926-4515 for complete details and contest rules.

MONDAY

The Base Library will feature a holiday story time from 10 to 11 a.m. For more information, call 327-7379.

TUESDAY

Stop by the Officers' Club and receive a free dessert, with a purchase of an entrée, during membership appreciation days, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in December from 5:30 to 8 p.m. For more information call the Officers' Club at 926-2670.

THURSDAY

Morning Out is available to provide quality care for children ages 19 months to 4 years old. Cost is \$60 per month per child and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon with a discount during December and March. For more information call the Child Development Center at 926-5805.

UPCOMING

All active duty and retired military members and their families are invited to a traditional Christmas meal at Wynn Dining Facility, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 25. Items will be priced a la carte plus a surcharge on the total meal. Spouse and dependent children of active duty enlisted members in pay grades E-1 through E-4 are not required to pay the surcharge. Dorm residents will not pay for their meals, but their family members and guests will pay the standard rate. Military members who do not live in the dorms and are planning to dine are asked to notify the dining hall no later than Dec. 19 so food may be prepared accordingly. To see the menu, visit www.robins.af.mil/services, go to Food Service and click on Christmas menu. For more information call 926-6596 or 923-7307.

Robins Lanes Bowling Center has the following upcoming events. For more information call the bowling center at 926-2112.

- Practice your bowling skills from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 23. Bowl three games and shoe rental for \$5.
- Come out Dec. 26 from 1 to 5 p.m. and bowl two games, order a regular hamburger or hot dog, fries and medium drink for \$6.
- Enjoy Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling Dec. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost includes all the games participants can bowl in two hours and shoes for \$7.
- A fun time bowling competition will be held Dec. 30 at 6 p.m. Bowl four games (9-pin no tap, 3-6-9, scotch doubles and low ball) for a chance to win money and prizes. Cost is \$15 per person with a winner every game.
- Celebrate New Year's Eve bowling with the family Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person and includes bowling, snacks and party. Children 11 years and younger bowl free when accompanied by a paying adult.
- Every Wednesday in January is beat the clock day. Start bowling before 1 p.m. and pay \$1 per game; start at 2 p.m. and pay \$1.25 per game; start at 3 p.m. and pay \$1.50 per game or start by 4 p.m. and pay \$1.75 per game.
- The annual Baker tournament will be held Jan. 14. Teams consist of four person mixed with a minimum of one male or one female by bowling 10 games across 10 lanes. Entry fee is \$60 per team with chances to win money and prizes.
- Time to take advantage of our lunch time special and work off those extra holiday pounds by bowling three games for \$3 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday – Friday.
- The On Spot Café special for January is a BLT, fries and medium drink for \$3.50. For more information call the bowling center at 926-2112.

Brining in 2006 at the Officers' Club. Amenities will include a buffet dinner, party

Solo flight



Courtesy photo

Brett Heithold, son of Col. and Mrs. Bradley Heithold, has earned his wings. The new pilot took his first solo flight in a Robins Aero Club Piper Warrior Dec. 1, the day after his 16th birthday. For more information on how you too can soar above the clouds call the Aero Club at 926-4867. The club is open to anyone with base access including contractors, Department of Defense Civilians and their families, active duty military and retirees.

favors, champagne at midnight and a continental breakfast. Featured entertainment will be the band "Missing Link." Tickets are on sale for \$40 per person for members and \$50 per nonmember. Twenty rooms will be available at lodging, and can be reserved through the Officers' Club cashier. For more information call the Officers' Club at 926-2670.

A New Year's Eve gala will be held at the Enlisted Club with entertainment by Conquest in the ballroom. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for guests. The club will open at 8 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 9 p.m. The evening will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, breakfast buffet, champagne, party hats and favors. For more information call 926-4515.

Letters of intent can be picked up at the fitness center for the intramural six-a-side soccer. These are due by Jan. 6. A coaches meeting will be held Jan. 11 and a pre-season tournament is scheduled for Jan. 18 through 21. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

Intramural volleyball letters of intent are due to the fitness center by Jan. 20. A coaches meeting will be held on Jan. 25 with a pre-season tournament scheduled for Jan. 30. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

A prostate awareness walk will be held Jan. 13 at 11 a.m. with registration to be held at the Health and Wellness Center, Building 825. This walk is in partnership with the Health and Wellness Center. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

An indoor soccer tournament is slated for Jan. 21 starting at noon. Register at the fitness center by Jan. 20. No late entries will be accepted. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

ONGOING

The Arts & Crafts Center will hold the following classes:

- Youth acrylic painting Dec. 21 from 4:30 – 6 p.m., cost \$5;
- Adult acrylic painting Dec. 21 from 6 – 8 p.m., cost \$10;
- Encaustic art Dec. 20 from 6 – 8 p.m., cost \$12.50;
- Scroll saw and learn fret work Dec. 14 from 6 – 8 p.m., cost \$10;
- Wood shop classes Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
- Do-it-yourself framing, Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Evenings and Saturdays framing classes by appointment only.
- Auto shop safety and orientation is held every Wednesday at 6 p.m. and every Saturday at 11 a.m. free of charge.

Advance registration and payment is required for classes. Classes are subject to change and do not include supply and equipment costs.

New classes will start in January. Look for stained glass, mosaic and digital photography. For more information, call the arts & crafts center at 926-5282.

The Joint Forces Bingo has new surprises and door prizes in December. Players may pick up a Christmas tree game hand-out when they play bingo for a chance to win prizes during the stuffed animal bingo on Dec. 23.

The following events will be held in December: Big bingo with more money given away, door prizes and snacks Dec. 15; stuffed animal bingo and coverall on the Christmas tree game handouts Dec. 23 with a choice of a stuffy that will be holding an envelope with cash prizes from \$500 to \$1,500; membership bar bingo Dec. 28 and New Year's celebration with big prizes, snacks and door prizes Dec. 30.

Joint Forces Bingo is located in the east wing of the Robins Enlisted Club. The hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and

Friday with games starting at 7:15 p.m. Games are 2:45 p.m. on Sundays. Enjoy bar bingo five nights a week at 6 p.m. Any one with an active duty, reserve, guard, retired, DoD or family member identification card is eligible to play. The entry fee is free to all Robins' club members, bona fide guests and active duty or retired widow club members and \$5 for eligible non-club members. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-4515 or Teresa Resta at 926-1303.

Pizza Depot December specials include a bowl of soup and half sub for \$4.75 and a barbecue or fish sub, fries and fountain drink for \$5.50. For more information 926-0188.

Information, Tickets and Travel carries character watches for \$18, mugs and other gifts for \$8.50 and up. For more information call 926-2945.

Pine Oaks Golf Course is currently offering the following specials. For more information call the golf course at 926-4103.

- A family special is held Saturdays after 3:30 p.m. Play nine-holes for \$20. Includes cart and green fee for one adult and junior. Pay an additional \$6 for adults or \$5 for juniors.
- Golf on Mondays and Tuesdays for only \$25. Includes green fee, cart fee and lunch.
- Golf as much as you can during the twilight special, available Monday through Friday, weekends and holidays after 2 p.m. for \$14. Includes green fee and golf car.
- A lunch time special is held Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$6 for all the range balls you can hit plus free tips from the golf pro starting at noon.
- Wednesday is Ladies Day. Cost is \$15 for golf cart and green fee.
- A Pro Shop Christmas sale will be held through Dec. 24 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Selected golf clubs and golf bags reduced. All clearance priced stock reduced by an additional 15 percent. Clothing will be reduced 20 percent, select items will be 50 percent off.
- Link Up 2 Golf, at Pine Oaks Golf Course, offers participants over \$300 in savings for \$99 per person. The program includes eight hours of instruction, complimentary club rental, free shirt and ball mark repair tool. Link Up 2 Golf will conclude with a three-hole graduation scramble.
- Now is the time to book your organization's golf outings and tournaments for 2006. For dates, times and great prices call the Pine Oaks Golf Course at 926-4103.

The Information, Tickets and Travel office is selling movie ticket vouchers for the Georgia Theater Company and Amstar. Georgia Theater tickets will be good at either the Galleria Mall or Parkway Cinemas for \$6 and the Amstar on Zebulon Road in Macon for \$5. For more information call the ITT office at 926-2945.

Ultimate Frisbee pick-up games are open to men and women of all skill levels. Bring cleats. For time and location call Ryan Stich at 222-4346.

Tickets for the 2006 Daytona 500 will be on sale until Dec. 23. Ticket packages include a Great American Race Weekend (one super stretch seat for Daytona 500 and Hershey's 300) for \$103.28 (regular \$162); All American Offer (one super stretch and one Daytona 500 hat) for \$102.25 (regular \$132) or Nextel Fanzone (pre-race pass) for \$75 (regular \$90). For more information call the ITT office at 926-2945.

Information, Tickets and Travel has tickets for the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl 2005 Atlantic Coast Conference versus the South Eastern Conference championships for \$75. The game will be held Dec. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. For more information call ITT at 926-2945.

Look for GO offers throughout 78th Services Division facilities now through Feb. 28. The GO program offers a variety of events, activities and discounts designed specifically for Robins' junior enlisted force. All E -1 through E – 4's and their immediate family members may take advantage of these programs. Identification card must be shown to receive special discounts and serves as entry to all special events. ID required. All E- 1 through E-4 are eligible to take advantage of the following December GO events:

- Drink special – Show your Military ID card and get a free fountain drink with a meal purchase of \$4 or more at the Main Base Restaurant, Pizza Depot, Robins Enlisted Club and Robins Lanes Bowling Center On Spot Café.
- Golf Special – Receive one free range token when you show your Military ID at the Pine Oaks Golf Course. Limit one token per person per month.
- Wednesday Wing Special – Show your Military ID and get 25-cent wings (minimum order of 20, no carry outs) 6 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday at the Robins Enlisted Club.
- Bowling Special – Dec. 17: Show your Go card and enjoy Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling and Rock 300 for half price, only \$5 at Robins Lanes Bowling Center. The lights go dim and the fun begins at 9 p.m. The first 20 Airmen, E–1 – E-4, to sign up for Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling will receive a free CD case.
- New Year's Eve Special – Dec. 31: Show your Military ID and celebrate New Year's Eve with Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling for only \$10. The fun begins at 9 p.m.

Take advantage of the following January GO events:

- ITT Special – Receive a 10 percent discount on balloon bouquets and Disney watches when you show your military ID Card.
- Free golf lesson – Receive one free 15 minute golf lesson with the new Pine Oaks Golf Course Pro, Clay Murray. Must show your military ID. Limit one lesson per person.
- Free stall rentals – Show your military ID and one hour of free stall rental per visit at the Auto Hobby Shop.
- Free shop fee – Receive one hour free shop fee per visit at the Wood Hobby Shop when you show your military ID.
- DITY Frame Special – Show your military ID and get one hour free shop time per visit for do-it-yourself framing.
- Free class – Receive a free acrylic painting class with all supplies included on Jan. 25, 6 - 8 p.m. when you show your military ID. You must be registered for the class by Jan. 11.

For more information call Services Marketing at 926-5492.

Tickets for CATS at the Fox Theater, Atlanta, are now available for \$55 (orchestra level) at Information, Tickets and Travel. Showtime is set for at 2 p.m. Jan. 22. For more information, call ITT at 926-2945.

GO Orlando Cards are available at ITT. This card offers unlimited admission to more than 50 of Florida's top attractions plus savings on shopping and dining. Cost is \$90 adult/\$70 children for two-day pass; \$140 adult/\$115 children for three-day pass; \$195 adult/\$150 for five-day pass or \$250 adult/\$175 children for seven-day pass. For information call 926-2945.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Services November contributions to the 78th Services Division were \$43,520.71 and the year-to-date is \$86,090.09. These contributions are made possible through the patronage of AAFES customers.

To have an item listed, send it to Amanda Smith at amanda.smith@robins.af.mil by 4 p.m. Monday prior to the Friday of intended publication.

NOW PLAYING



Adult tickets are \$3.50; children 11 years old and younger tickets are \$2. Movies start at 7:30 p.m., unless noted. For more information, call the base theater at 926-2919.



FRIDAY

Dreamer:
Inspired by a True Story
Kurt Russell, Dakota Fanning

Ben was once a great horse-man, whose gifts as a trainer are now being wasted on making other men's fortunes. Sonya was a great horse whose promising future was suddenly cut short by a broken leg. Considered as good as dead to her owner, who also happens to be Ben's boss, Sonya is given to Ben as severance pay, along with his walking papers. Now, it will take the unwavering faith and determination of Ben's young daughter, Cale, to bring these two damaged souls together in a quest for a seemingly impossible goal: to win the Breeders' Cup Classic. PG (brief mild language) 98 minutes.

SATURDAY

Prime
Meryl Streep, Uma Thurman

Rafi is a recently divorced 37-year-old career woman from Manhattan and Dave is a talented 23-year-old painter from Brooklyn who falls in love with her. Part counselor, part Jewish mother, Rafi's therapist Lisa is gingerly helping Rafi out of her post-divorce slump and through the urgent alarm of her ticking biological clock. Although doubtful that Rafi's new fling is an appropriate partner in the long term, Lisa encourages her patient to enjoy it and have fun. But once Lisa accidentally discovers that Rafi's new boyfriend is, in fact, her son, Dave, she finds it increasingly difficult to act the good therapist while hearing intimate details of her son's love life. PG-13 (sexual content including dialogue, and for language) 106 minutes.

UPCOMING

The Legend of Zorro
Catherine Zeta-Jones,
Antonio Banderas

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic

Catholic masses are held at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and at a 5 p.m. vigil the day before, and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Saturday from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Islamic

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex rooms 1 and 2.

Jewish

Jewish service is Fridays at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

Orthodox Christian

St. Innocent Orthodox Church service is at the chapel on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

Protestant

General services take place Sundays at 11 a.m. The service includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and format. Protestant inspirational services take place Sundays at 8 a.m. Contemporary services take place 11 a.m. Sundays at the base theater. This service is informal and includes traditional and contemporary styles of music and worship.

The chapel helps with spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an

approved leave recipient printed in the Robins Rev-Up, wings should send information to Amanda Smith at: amanda.smith@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.



Tech Sgt. Alex Murray installs a bearing in a C-17 main landing gear post assembly.

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Crew chiefs keep pilots flying

By HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

If it turns, burns, banks or rolls, a crew chief made it happen.

That's the motto crew chiefs like Tech Sgt. Alex Murray, a C-17 crew chief with the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, live and work by.

The BIG Picture

The 31-year-old Tennessee native is one of 52 crew chiefs in his unit who ensures aircraft, like the C-5 and C-17, are maintained with the proper landing gear and other essential parts.

"As a crew chief at Robins, it's all about heavy maintenance," he said. "Everything we do is based around long jobs that they can't do in the field. They can't have an aircraft broken on the ground for five or six days at a time."

Staff Sgt. Kevin Call, also a C-17 crew chief who heads up a group of about 10 workers with the unit, said the job of a crew chief is no simple task.

"As a crew chief on a typical flight line, your basic day-to-day maintenance involves refueling the aircraft and your pre-



Tech Sgt. Alex Murray, Staff Sgt. Scott Schaff, Master Sgt. Darryl Noah and Senior Airman Casey Medders install a C-17 main landing gear post assembly.

flight and post-flight inspections from nose to tail and wing to wing," he said. "We look for damaged hardware, missing panels, loose screws, leaks of any kind, and change out tires and brakes to keep pilots in the air."

Crew chiefs work alongside their civilian counterparts from the 402nd Maintenance Wing to repair aircraft in time for their functional test flights.

"Specifically with the C-17s in the speed line, flights come in, and from the time they hit the deck we have eight days to take all four main landing gear tires out, rebuild them, put them back

in and get it back in the air," Sergeant Call said. "We're on a time constraint every time that plane touches the ground."

While the role of a crew chief varies from base to base, Senior Airman Casey Medders, who has been a C-5 crew chief with the 653rd CLSS for a year, said its importance remains the same.

"I came from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., where I worked C-5s on the flight line," he said. "Here, I work C-17s and C-5s. With C-5s, I've done everything from gear changes to engine and pylon changes. It's more of an inspecting and servicing process here. It's more in-

depth depot maintenance here."

With a deeper level of work comes more challenges, Sergeant Call, a 33-year-old Texas native who has been with the 653rd CLSS for more than five years, said.

"You can take this equipment out 15 times and run into something new every single time," he said. "So, it's a challenge just working out the little tweaks."

But Sergeant Murray said having a team of engineers on hand helps.

"We work really closely with the engineers whenever we come to a problem," he said. "If we have worn aircraft parts or if there's a call we can't make on something, we'll go to our engineers, and they'll give us a fix if there is one or they'll tell us to order the part."

Family-2-Family program brightens holiday season

By **AIRMAN 1ST CLASS PAUL ROSS**
116th Air Control Wing Public Affairs

The Holiday season is a time for reflection, a time to spend with loved ones and most importantly a time for giving – something Airmen in the 116th Air Control Wing have made a habit of.

In its ninth year, the 116th Air Control Wing’s Family-2-Family program continues to help more people each year.

Sixty-six families and 163 children will benefit from the program this year with 24 of the families being military.

“The overall goal of the Family-2-Family project is in direct support of the Air National Guard mission statement, which is to participate in and support local, state and national projects and programs that add value to the community in which we live and serve,” said Maj. Gwendolyn Taylor, Family-2-Family coordinator.

The Family-2-Family program not only helps community and military members but also people in its own wing.

“This is a hard time of year for my family; this drive has done so much,” said Staff Sgt. Shakela Wesley, 116th member and mother of three whose family is being helped by the Family-2-Family program. “I am at a loss for words ... The program is great ... it is wonderful.

This program isn’t only providing gifts and food for families in need but also strengthening the ties between the military at Robins and the surrounding community.

“This program is important because it’s helping people less fortunate than me during Christmas time,” said Airman 1st Class Terra Barrett, 12th Airborne Command and

Control Squadron intelligence analyst. “It’s good for us to get involved with the community.”

Major Taylor uses the program as her way of giving back to those less fortunate.

“When the wing moved to Robins Air Force Base in 1996, retired Chief Master Sgt. Alicia Price and I organized the wing’s first food drive,” said Major Taylor. “The items collected were donated to help

food banks at local churches, homeless shelters and food kitchens.

“As the community and civic leaders began to embrace the 116th Bomb Wing, our mission to help the needy also grew as more and more requests were made for assistance. We decided to combine both events into one, forming the Family-2-Family Holiday Project.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Paul Ross

Tech. Sgt. Sylvia Simmons, 116th Maintenance Squadron information manager, wraps gifts for the Family-2-Family program, Dec. 13. The program is in its ninth year.

All in a day’s work



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

SANTA CLAUS

Also known as St. Nicholas, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, Jolly Old Elf

“I’ve been very busy making appearances and talking with children and hearing their wishes for Christmas and also checking those lists to see who’s been naughty or nice. I have to check with my No. 1 elf to see if all the toys are ready, coordinate with Mrs. Claus for my meals and see that the reindeer are rested and ready for the big night. Rudolph needs special attention to get his nose shined. And with the price of gas I’m glad I only travel once a year. Ho, Ho, Ho……..

“Be sure to tell all the children to go to sleep early and to leave me a cookie or two.

“Merry Christmas!”